UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

DH/1907
5 June 1995

M O N D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ 121 United Nations peace-keepers released by Bosnian Serbs arrive safely in Croatia; Special Adviser Gharekhan says Secretary-General will not rest until remaining hostages are set free.

+ Croatian Army and Bosnian Croat forces attack Serb-held areas in Croatia; Special Representative Akashi contacts parties to defuse situation.

+ In message for World Environment Day, Secretary-General calls on global community to fight environmental degradation.

+ United Nations political office for Somalia to remain in Nairobi until security situation in Mogadishu improves, Secretary-General decides.

+ Danish doctor and Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting Health receive 1995 United Nations Population Award.

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The 121 United Nations peace-keepers released by the Bosnian Serbs on Friday arrived last night in Zagreb, where they were greeted by senior United Nations officials. Most of them then flew on to Split for medical check-ups and debriefings. Special Adviser Chinmaya Gharekhan said that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali would not rest until all the remaining hostages were set free. As of this morning, 164 United Nations personnel were still being detained by the Bosnian Serbs, while another 179

(more)

were being blockaded.

The Secretary-General sent his Special Adviser to Zagreb on Friday to assess the situation and to support the efforts of Special Representative Yasushi Akashi. Mr. Gharekhan intended to fly to Sarajevo this morning, but his aircraft turned around in mid-air because the Bosnian Serb authorities would not give adequate security guarantees. The Bosnian Serbs said that they would not endanger the aircraft, but warned that other parties might fire on it and blame them. Mr. Gharekhan and Mr. Akashi later met with the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

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The Croatian Army and Bosnian Croat forces yesterday began shelling Serb-held areas in Croatia, and launched an incursion in the direction of Knin, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Croatian Serb authorities responded by ordering a full mobilization of their forces. Special Representative Akashi contacted the parties in order to prevent the situation from escalating. The Croatian authorities assured him that the action was a limited one and not a major offensive against Knin, and the situation later stabilized.

The situation in Sarajevo remained tense and difficult today, the spokesman continued. Six civilians died there yesterday as a result of Bosnian Serb shelling. However, there was some good news from the Bosnian capital. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) managed to move 80 metric tons of wheat flour from a warehouse at the airport to a city bakery yesterday, and another delivery was expected today.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called on the global community to fight actions that degraded the environment. In a message for World Environment Day, he said a sense of global consciousness was emerging for the first time. No political boundaries could stop the spread of poisonous gases or turn back effluents. If atmospheric pollution and the erosion of biological resources continued, the repercussions would be worldwide and would affect every generation to come, he warned.

The Secretary-General said it was appropriate that the main celebration of this year's World Environment Day was taking place in South Africa. One year ago, the South African people had dismantled the barriers that divided them, reasserting the values of compassion, love and tolerance.

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The Day was commemorated at Headquarters with a high-level panel presentation on women and the environment. The event was sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Department of Public Information (DPI), and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

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The Secretary-General has decided that the United Nations political office for Somalia will remain in Nairobi until the security situation in Mogadishu improves. In a letter to the Security Council President issued today, he said he had decided to reduce the staff of the office to one director at the D-2 level and one general service staff member.

The security situation in Mogadishu was unstable and unpredictable, and visits by international staff had been severely curtailed, the Secretary-General continued. Efforts to obtain the views of Somali leaders on a possible United Nations political presence in their country had yielded no results because of the opposition of the two principal leaders, Ali Mahdi and General Mohamed Farah Aidid. He noted, however, that many other Somali leaders had welcomed his intention to set up a political office in Somalia.

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Population issues must be addressed as an integral part of social and economic development, the Secretary-General told the 1995 United Nations Population Award ceremony today. He said last year's International Conference on Population and Development proved that the international community had the political will to work for a better quality of life for all. The Programme of Action adopted in Cairo could change the world for the better by providing people with broader choices and empowering them.

The Population Award was presented to Dr. Halfdan Mahler of Denmark and Dr. Berhane Ras-Work, who received it on behalf of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC). Dr. Mahler has been Secretary-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) since 1989, and served as Director-General of the World Health Organization from 1973 to 1988. Dr. Ras-Work is President of the IAC.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1908
6 June 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations welcomes reports Bosnian Serbs will release remaining peace-keepers held hostage, but says nothing has been confirmed; UNHCR says no relief convoys have reached Bosnian enclaves for weeks.

+ Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNAMIR mandate for six months; says focus should shift from peace-keeping to confidence-building, citing radical changes in situation in Rwanda.

+ FAO Director-General warns global food stocks are likely to fall below minimum necessary for world food security.

+ Secretary-General says implementation of Lusaka Protocol has entered new and promising phase; parties must cooperate even more with United Nations.

+ All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue concludes with adoption of Schlaining Declaration by consensus.

+ Mozambique chosen by lot to occupy first seat in General Assembly Hall during fiftieth session.

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A United Nations spokesman today said he was encouraged by reports that the Bosnian Serbs would release the remaining peace-keepers being held hostage in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He underlined that those reports had not been confirmed, although there had been indications from Pale that some action would be taken shortly.

The situation in Sarajevo was stable today, with a relatively low number of firing incidents reported. A French observation post and an Egyptian armoured personnel carrier were targeted yesterday, but there were no casualties. The Bosnian

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Serbs continued to target the Mount Igman logistics road, and three French journalists were injured when their vehicle was hit by a shell and went off the road.

Calm prevailed in Croatia today, with the exception of Sector South, the spokesman continued. There was continued hostility toward United Nations personnel there, and two more vehicles were hijacked. There were also severe restrictions on the movement of United Nations personnel, and military observers were unable to patrol in Serb-held territory.

In another development, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that its humanitarian airlift had now been suspended for more than two months. Meanwhile, no convoys had reached Sarajevo or the eastern enclaves for the last two weeks. There was an acute food shortage in Bihac, which had not received a relief convoy since 21 May.

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The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for six months to 9 December, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report dated 4 June, he said UNAMIR was an essential part of the international community's effort to assist Rwanda. He noted that there had been radical changes in the situation there since the establishment of the present Government and the end of the war and the genocide. He recommended certain adjustments to the mandate, with a shift in focus from peace-keeping to confidence-building.

UNAMIR should undertake tasks required to sustain a peace-keeping presence in Rwanda, including the protection of United Nations premises and agencies and International Tribunal personnel, he said. It should also assist the Government in confidence-building and in promoting a climate conducive to stability and the return of refugees and displaced persons. That would entail monitoring throughout the country and helping in the distribution of humanitarian assistance, but not patrolling. The report said troop strength should be gradually reduced from 5,500 to 2,330.

The Government of Rwanda had proposed that UNAMIR's role be limited to monitoring and that its strength be reduced to 1,800 troops, the report pointed out. However, such a level would not

allow the Mission to adequately perform its tasks. The Secretary-General said he would continue consultations with the Government and would report orally to the Council before it decided on the future mandate.

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Global food stocks are likely to fall below the minimum necessary for world food security next year, according to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Jacques Diouf. He said the global food and agriculture situation required vigilance, noting that some countries were currently experiencing food shortages. He made those comments to the FAO Governing Council as it began a two-week session in Rome yesterday.

Mr. Diouf said world cereal production was forecast at 1.93 billion tons in 1995, representing a decline of 20 million tons, or 1 per cent, from last year. That level of production would not meet expected consumption needs, and carry-over stocks were expected to fall 10 per cent to 270 million tons at the end of the 1996 crop-year.

Fifteen sub-Saharan African countries were already facing food shortfalls requiring exceptional or emergency assistance, he continued. A massive drop in cereal output was expected in southern Africa due to widespread drought, and a poor harvest in 1996 would spell disaster for millions of people there.

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In the latest progress report on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III), the Secretary-General said the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol had entered a new and promising phase. However, he stressed that the deployment of UNAVEM III infantry must be matched by even greater cooperation by the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) with the United Nations in implementing all major provisions of the Protocol.

The Secretary-General noted that while much progress had been achieved recently, the Angolan peace process was behind schedule. Major efforts would be required to make up for the delay, he concluded.

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The first All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue concluded yesterday in Austria by adopting the "Burg Schlaining Declaration". Adopted by consensus, the Declaration calls for a continuation of dialogue, and reaffirms the need to implement measures in the field of human rights to promote peace, stability, justice and social harmony. It also reaffirms that the social and cultural development of East Timor should be based on the preservation of the cultural identity of the people.

The Dialogue was initiated by the Secretary-General in the context of his good offices on the question of East Timor, and facilitated by the United Nations. The participants reaffirmed the importance of the ongoing negotiations between the Governments of Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

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The Secretary-General today chose Mozambique by lot as the first Member State to be seated during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, which will begin on 19 September. The Mozambican delegation will be seated at the extreme left in the front row of the General Assembly Hall. Seating will proceed in English alphabetical order from there.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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7 June 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council welcomes release of another 108 United Nations peace-keepers by Bosnian Serbs; expects further releases soon.

+ France, Netherlands and United Kingdom propose to put two rapid-deployment brigades at disposal of United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ United Nations considers requesting NATO close air support after Croatian forces target Kenyan peace-keepers in Sector South.

+ Under-Secretary-General Kittani reviews arrangements for Fourth World Conference on Women with Chinese officials in Beijing; expresses optimism regarding question of venue for NGO Forum.

+ Economic and Social Council concludes 1995 organizational session; to transmit draft to General Assembly on transforming WFP Committee on Food Aid into executive board.

+ Subcommittee on Small Territories approves text reaffirming responsibility of administering Powers to promote development of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

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The Security Council today welcomed news that the Bosnian Serbs had released 108 of the United Nations peace-keepers being held hostage in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a statement to correspondents, Council President Detlev Graf zu Rantzau (Germany) announced that another 120 hostages were expected to be released later today. He added that the Council was looking forward to confirmation of reports to that effect.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The 108 peace-keepers were released early this morning and then flown from Belgrade to Zagreb, according to a United Nations spokesman. None of the soldiers -- 58 Ukrainians, 32 French, 17 British and one Spaniard -- had been injured. A total of 149 United Nations personnel continued to be detained or blockaded by the Bosnian Serbs, although it was possible that "a few stragglers" had also been released.

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France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are prepared to assist the United Nations by putting two international brigades at its disposal in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping, Kofi Annan. He made that comment to correspondents after meeting with political and military representatives of the three countries on the formation of a rapid-deployment force to help the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Mr. Annan stressed that the proposal would require Security Council approval. It had been shared with other Member States, and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was being fully briefed on all developments. If the Council approved the proposal, it would give the UNPROFOR Commander the means to protect his troops and tactical flexibility on the ground. The new force would operate under peace-keeping rules of engagement. It would not be an enforcement operation, but would be an added deterrence, he said.

* * *

United Nations officials yesterday considered calling for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) close air support after Croatian forces directly targeted peace-keepers in Croatia, according to a spokesman for the Organization. A total of four shells were fired at a Kenyan camp in Sector South, but caused no casualties or major damage. Meanwhile, a Kenyan observation post came under machine-gun fire.

NATO had been prepared to provide close air support, but the attack ended before any formal request was made, the spokesman said. The United Nations sent a strong letter of protest to the Croatian forces following the incident.

In another development, the United Nations today sent a high-level delegation to Belgrade and Pale to discuss the question of deliveries of humanitarian aid and the resupply of peace-keepers in Sarajevo and the Bosnian enclaves. Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs

allowed two convoys into Srebrenica and Zepa today. No convoys had reached those areas since 23 May and 18 May respectively.

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Under-Secretary-General Ismat Kittani has had several meetings with senior Chinese officials in Beijing regarding the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women. The Secretary-General recently asked him to review arrangements for the September Conference with the Chinese Government. Mr. Kittani is Chairman of the High-level Steering Committee for the event.

Mr. Kittani also inspected the Beijing International Convention Centre, which will be the site of the Conference, and visited the proposed venue for the NGO Forum. He expressed optimism that the question of the venue for the Forum would be resolved. He said his goal was to reach an agreement that was satisfactory both to the Chinese Government and to the NGO Organizing Committee.

Tomorrow, Mr. Kittani will meet with Qian Qichen, China's Vice Premier and Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs. He will deliver a letter from the Secretary-General, and exchange views on the preparations for the Conference.

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The Economic and Social Council has decided to transmit to the General Assembly a draft resolution on transforming the World Food Programme (WFP) Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes into an executive board. The Council took that action as it concluded its 1995 organizational session.

By the draft resolution, the Committee would be reconstituted as an executive board with 36 members elected from among the Members of the United Nations or the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The WFP is an autonomous joint organ of the United Nations and the FAO. The FAO Conference will take up the matter in Rome in November.

The Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance yesterday concluded its 1995 session. The Subcommittee adopted its report and approved 14 draft resolutions without a vote.

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One of the draft resolutions would have the Special Committee on Decolonization reaffirm the responsibility of the administering Powers of 12 Non-Self-Governing Territories to promote their economic and social development. Twelve drafts addressed, respectively, specific conditions prevailing in those Territories. Another draft resolution dealt with the dissemination of information on decolonization.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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8 June 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General expresses relief and satisfaction after successful recovery of American pilot shot down last week in Bosnia; Bosnian Serbs continue to hold 146 United Nations personnel hostage.

* UNHCR reports deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sarajevo; United Nations convoy comes under heavy attack north of city.

* Security Council Committee appeals for information on violations of mandatory arms embargo against Liberia.

* Member States owed United Nations $2.75 billion as of 31 May; $900 million owed to regular budget and $1.85 billion owed to peace-keeping.

* Preparatory Committee for Fiftieth Anniversary establishes initial list of speakers for General Assembly's Special Commemorative Meeting

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed relief and satisfaction regarding the successful recovery of the American pilot shot down last week over Serb-controlled territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He expressed continued concern about United Nations peace-keepers still held hostage in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and reiterated his call for their immediate release.

A United Nations spokesman said a total of 146 United Nations personnel were still being detained or blockaded by the Bosnian Serbs, while another 86 peace-keepers were being blockaded by Bosnian Government forces. The Bosnian Serbs released a total of 111 peace-keepers yesterday.

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For information media—not an official record

The military situation in Sarajevo was "active" yesterday, but the fighting was less intense today, according to a United Nations spokesman. More than 1,800 firing incidents were reported over a 24-hour period. Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today carried the last food stocks from its airport warehouses into Sarajevo, and the city bakery was expected to run out of wheat later in the day. As of tomorrow, aid distributions would only meet 15 per cent of requirements.

A Norwegian convoy being escorted by Pakistani peace-keepers was attacked today in an area south-west of Tuzla and north of Sarajevo, the spokesman said. Six rounds were fired at the convoy from heavy weapons. The Pakistani troops returned fire with machine-guns, but there were no reports of casualties.

Croatia was generally calm today, with the exception of Sector South, the spokesman went on to say. Considerable shelling was reported in that Sector.

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The Security Council Committee established under resolution 985 (1995) has appealed for any information on violations or suspected violations of the mandatory arms embargo against Liberia. The appeal was addressed to individuals as well as national and international non-governmental organizations. It asked that they forward any relevant information to their own governments or to the governments concerned, and to the Committee.

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As of 31 May, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.75 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, some $900 million was for the regular budget and $1.85 billion was for peace-keeping.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $527 million to the regular budget and $652 to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed $41 million to the regular budget and $558 million to peace-keeping.

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The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations has drawn lots to establish the initial list of speakers for the General Assembly's Special Commemorative Meeting. The Meeting will take place from 22 to 24 October and will be divided into six sessions. As Host Country, the United States is the first speaker on the list for the first session. The next four speakers listed are Ukraine, Jordan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

The list of speakers for each session is arranged according to rank, following the established practice of the Assembly and the order resulting from the selection process. Heads of State are accorded first priority, followed by vice-presidents, crown princes/princesses, heads of Government, highest ranking officials of the Holy See and Switzerland as observer States, and Palestine in its capacity as observer, ministers, permanent representatives and other observers.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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9 June 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council extends UNAMIR for six months and adjusts mandate in light of situation in Rwanda; force level to be reduced to 1,800 troops within four months.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council accept proposal by France, Netherlands and United Kingdom to reinforce UNPROFOR; says Force's authorized strength should be increased by 12,500 troops.

* UNHCR and Bosnian Serb authorities reach agreement on resumption of humanitarian deliveries to Sarajevo; Bosnian Serbs to inspect convoys only once and guarantee security of drivers.

* UNPROFOR reports decrease in military activity in Sarjevo, but increase in attacks on United Nations vehicles.

* Special Representative Khan says reconciliation in Rwanda requires voluntary return of two million refugees; cross-border military infiltration is destabilizing factor.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for six months to 8 December. It decided to reduce the force level to 2,330 troops within three months, and to 1,800 troops within four months, but maintained the current level of military observers and civilian police personnel. It also decided to adjust UNAMIR's mandate in the light of the current situation in Rwanda. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 997 (1995).

Under the adjusted mandate, UNAMIR will exercise its good offices to help achieve national reconciliation within the frame of reference of the Arusha Peace Agreement. It will assist the Rwandan Government in facilitating the voluntary and safe return

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For information media—not an official record

of refugees and their reintegration. To that end, the Mission will support the Government's efforts to promote a climate of confidence by performing monitoring tasks.

UNAMIR will also support humanitarian deliveries, and provide assistance in engineering, logistics, medical care and demining. It will also assist the training of a national police force until the Rwandan Government enters into bilateral arrangements for other training programmes. The Mission will contribute to the security of United Nations agencies and the International Tribunal for Rwanda, and of humanitarian agencies in cases of need.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that the Security Council should accept the proposal put forward by France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to provide military reinforcements for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The three countries offered a rapid reaction force of some 15,000 troops, of whom 2,500 are already in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Secretary-General made his recommendation in a letter to the President of the Council.

The Secretary-General said that if the Council accepted the proposal, it would need to increase UNPROFOR's authorized strength by 12,500. That figure would include 4,000 troops in the French stand-by brigade, who would not be deployed unless and until their presence in the theatre became necessary. The proposed reinforcement would bring the total authorized strength of United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) to 57,370 troops.

The proposal put forward by the three countries would provide the UNPROFOR Commander with well-armed and mobile forces, allowing him to respond promptly to threats to United Nations personnel. However, the Secretary-General continued, the Force must remain a peace-keeping mission. The proposed reinforcement would not alter the fact that UNPROFOR could not by itself end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its role was to create conditions in which progress could be made towards a peaceful settlement, to help implement agreements that were reached, and to support efforts to relieve human suffering. It was therefore essential that the reinforcement of UNPROFOR be accompanied by a determined effort to revive the peace process.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Bosnian Serb authorities today reached an agreement to allow the resumption of humanitarian aid deliveries by land to Sarajevo. The agreement came at a critical time, as the agencies food supplies in the city had been almost exhausted after a two-week interruption in those deliveries.

According to the agreement, UNHCR convoys will resume from Melkovic via Kiseljak to both Government and Serb-held parts of Sarajevo as soon as possible. The Bosnian Serb authorities will inspect the convoys only once. They will guarantee the security of the drivers, and will escort them across Serb-held territory to Sarajevo and Raljivac. The agreement also applies to UNHCR convoys to the Serb-held area of Trebinja in south-east Bosnia.

A United Nations spokesman said that the situation in Sarajevo remained desperate despite today's agreement. He noted that the city's residents had insufficient water, gas and electricity, and that the danger from sniping and other firing remained high.

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There was a decrease in the level of military activity in and around Sarjevo today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Only 574 firing incidents were reported over a 24-hour period, down from 1,800 the previous day. However, there was an increase in the number incidents involving United Nations vehicles, particularly on Mount Igman.

The situation in Srebrenica remained tense, especially around the Dutch Battalion observation post, the spokesman continued. Meanwhile, there was relative calm in Croatia, with the exception of Sector South. Two shells landed close to the Kenyan Battalion post there yesterday.

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Any effort at reconciliation in Rwanda must be based on the return of nearly two million refugees from Zaire, Tanzania, Burundi and other countries, according to Special Representative Shahryar Khan. "If we are to see lasting harmony and stability these refugees have to be persuaded to voluntarily come back in dignity and in safety," he told correspondents at Headquarters today. He said the regional conference held in Bujumbura in February had provided excellent recommendations regarding the return of refugees.

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Those responsible for the genocide in Rwanda should be brought quickly to justice, the Special Representative stressed. The International Tribunal for Rwanda was proceeding too slowly, while Rwanda's national justice system had been undermined by the events last year. "Let's get this system going," he said.

Mr. Khan said cross-border military infiltration into Rwanda was a major source of tension and destabilization. It was very important to control or discipline military activity in refugee camps in neighbouring countries. The Governments of the countries concerned wanted international support in dealing with that problem, he noted.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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12 June 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General says Croatian parties must cooperate with UNCRO to justify continuation of Operation; stresses importance of cease-fire agreement, and safety and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel.

* Kenyan peace-keeper shot dead while trying to prevent hijacking of United Nations vehicle in Croatia's Sector South; Bosnian Serbs free Canadian detainee wounded in incident in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Donors Conference on Action Plan for Sarajevo to convene in Vienna on Wednesday; to review operations of Special Coordinator's Office and discuss prospects for future.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNMOT mandate for six months, and approve stationing of team in northern Afghanistan; says Mission plays instrumental role in containing Tajik conflict.

* Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations begins biennial session at Headquarters; to consider applications for consultative status with Economic and Social Council.

* Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space begins thirty-eighth session in Vienna; to focus on dangers posed by space debris.

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More than words are required from the Croatian parties to justify the continuation of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 9 June,

(more)

For information media—not an official record

he said the requests by the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs that UNCRO continue its deployments were positive developments. However, their cooperation on the ground had been unsatisfactory and UNCRO personnel had been put at risk.

The Secretary-General said both parties had exhibited a high degree of cynicism regarding their obligations under the cease-fire agreement of March 1994. The Croatian military offensive on 1 May showed what consequences ensued when conflicting parties forsook peaceful options and resorted to war. The Serb side must stop the hijacking of United Nations vehicles and the armed robbery and intimidation of UNCRO personnel.

Despite the operational difficulties, there appeared to be common ground between the parties that UNCRO should fulfil the tasks arising from the current cease-fire and economic agreements and from its humanitarian and human rights mandates, he continued. However, the redeployment of the mission by 30 June, as required under resolution 944 (1995), was no longer possible, and would likely take most of the present mandate period.

The Secretary-General said he would closely monitor the parties' cooperation with UNCRO. He would pay particular attention to the extent to which they complied with the cease-fire agreement, allowed UNCRO full freedom of movement, and protected its personnel from freedom and intimidation. Whether the Mission could fulfil its mandate depended ultimately on the parties' willingness to settle their differences at the negotiating table rather than on the battlefield.

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A Kenyan peace-keeper was killed yesterday while trying to prevent the hijacking of a United Nations vehicle in Croatia's Sector South, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. The vehicle was stopped by three men in Croatian Serb uniform while travelling from Knin to the United Nations headquarters in the Sector. The Kenyan soldier attempted to resist and was shot in the chest, while the driver -- a Czech civilian -- was wounded in the legs.

The spokesman said it was the first time a United Nations peace-keeper had been killed in such a hijacking. UNCRO launched an investigation into the incident, and demanded that the Croatian Serb authorities do likewise. There were two other hijackings in Sector South yesterday.

Meanwhile in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnian Serbs released a Canadian peace-keeper from detention after he was wounded in the leg in crossfire between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb forces. The remaining 11 Canadian detainees being held by the Bosnian Serbs were later moved to a safer location in response to a request by the Canadian Battalion.

The Bosnian Serbs continued to detain or blockade a total of 144 United Nations personnel, and had now denied the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to them, the spokesman continued. Meanwhile, 86 Ukrainians were being blockaded by Bosnian Government forces in Gorazde.

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A Donors Conference on the Action Plan for Sarajevo will be convened in Vienna on Wednesday. The Conference will review the operations of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo and discuss prospects for the future, including ongoing funding. It will be chaired by the Special Coordinator, William Eagleton.

The Conference will bring together representatives of the 28 major donors to the Action Plan, a Bosnian Government delegation, and United Nations, international organizations and non-governmental organizations involved in restoring essential services to the city. Some $94 million has been pledged to the Action Plan to date, $11 million of which has been pledged to the Trust Fund.

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The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for six months to 16 December, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 10 June, he said that the situation in Tajikistan remained tense, and that the Mission's instrumental role in containing the conflict there had been recognized by the parties. The United Nations should respond positively to their request for assistance in implementing the current cease-fire, which had been extended for three months.

Noting that tension also remained high on the Tajik-Afghan border, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council approve the stationing of an UNMOT team in northern Afghanistan. That would allow for more direct liaison with the Tajik opposition and provide a base for conducting investigations in northern Afghanistan.

The Secretary-General stressed that no time should be lost in advancing the national reconciliation process. He had instructed his Special Envoy to explore with the parties ways to achieve progress on fundamental political and institutional issues. He appealed to the leaders of the Tajik Government and opposition to continue their direct dialogue. The parties themselves bore the primary responsibility for resolving their differences, and the Organization's continued involvement in Tajikistan depended on the manner in which they discharged that responsibility.

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The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations today began its biennial session at Headquarters. Over the next two weeks, the Committee will consider the applications of more than 70 organizations seeking consultative status, or reclassification of their existing status, with the Economic and Social Council. It will also examine applications deferred from its 1993 session.

In addition, the Committee will consider recommendations by its working groups on its future work. Those recommendations -- that the Committee be enlarged and meet annually -- must be submitted to the Council for adoption.

Organizations can have three categories of status with the Economic and Social Council: Category I status allows them to submit written statements, be granted a hearing and propose agenda items; Category II status allows them to submit written statements and be granted a hearing; organizations on the Council's roster can make contributions to its work.

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The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space today began its thirty-eighth session in Vienna. Between now and 23 June, the Committee will consider ways and means to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes and to ensure that the benefits of space exploration and research are made available to developing countries.

The Committee will also consider the question of accumulating debris in outer space. Under a proposed work plan for the next three years, it would focus on: gaining an understanding of the problem in 1996; modelling the space debris environment and assessing risk in 1997; and discussing mitigation options in 1998.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1913
13 June 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations welcomes release of more hostages by Bosnian Serbs; says it will not be satisfied until all are set free.

* UNHCR says humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is critical; Bosnian Serbs continue to block food convoys despite recent agreement on resumption of humanitarian deliveries.

* Secretary-General welcomes Portugal's decision to increase its contribution to United Nations peace-keeping budget.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee discusses support account for peace-keeping operations.

* Secretary-General names Livio Muzi Falconi of Italy as new United Nations Chief of Protocol.

* UNDCP to establish Drug Preventive Network of Americas on 26 June.

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The Bosnian Serbs today released a large batch of the United Nations personnel held hostage in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A United Nations spokesman confirmed that 26 peace-keepers had been released and were en route to Novisad. However, he stressed that the Organization would not be satisfied until all its personnel had been set free. Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs claimed to have released all but 14 or 15 of the hostages.

There were also reports that most weapons collection points and observation posts in the Sarajevo area had been "de-blocked", according to the spokesman. The United Nations planned to resupply them and to rotate troops as soon as security conditions permitted.

There were low levels of fighting throughout the United Nations mission area yesterday and today, the spokesman continued. There were also unconfirmed reports that the Bosnian Government was massing troops in the Breza Ilijas area some 15 kilometres north of

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Sarajevo. Some sources expected serious military activity there shortly, but the United Nations could not verify those reports.

The situation in Sector South in Croatia remained stable but tense, the spokesman said. One of the United Nations vehicles stolen yesterday was returned, and the local authorities promised that a second would also be returned. There were unconfirmed reports that the men involved in the killing of a Kenyan peace-keeper on Sunday had been arrested. The soldier was shot dead while trying to prevent the hijacking of another vehicle.

In another development, the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia met today in Geneva. It was the last meeting to be attended by Lord Owen, who is being replaced as Co-Chairman of the Conference by former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt.

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The humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is critical, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Two desperately-needed food convoys bound for Sarajevo have been blocked by the Bosnian Serbs, despite the agreement on the resumption of humanitarian deliveries to the city signed in Pale last week. The only food reaching the Bosnian capital is being carried by trucks over Mount Igman.

The Bosnian Serbs had also given clearance for convoys to enter Zepa. However, the UNHCR decided it would be unsafe to move any convoys in eastern Bosnia after Bosnian Serb television showed pictures of ammunition purportedly found inside sacks of flour.

Meanwhile, a convoy bound for Gorazde has been held up since Sunday. The Bosnian Serbs gave clearance for it to proceed yesterday, but the road into the town was blocked by mines. The Bosnian Serbs would not give safety guarantees for United Nations engineers to deal with the problem.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced that Portugal had responded positively to his initiative inviting governments to consider increasing their contributions to peace-keeping operations. Portugal agreed to voluntarily join the Group B countries -- those that pay the same contributions to peace-keeping as to the regular budget. It had been a

member of Group C -- countries that contribute to peace-keeping on the basis of 20 per cent of their regular budget assessment.

The Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation to the Portuguese Government for such a tangible demonstration of its commitment to the United Nations, particularly at a time when the Organization's financial situation was so precarious.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has begun the second part of its resumed forty-ninth session by considering the support account for peace-keeping operations. The representative of France, speaking for the European Union, said the account should continue to be financed through a charge on each peace-keeping operation equivalent to 8.5 per cent of an operation's civilian component.

In supporting a recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the French representative added that specific requests for variations of posts and other resources from previously approved levels should be considered by the ACABQ on behalf of the General Assembly.

The Advisory Committee had also recommended that proposals for changes in the number of posts should be justified individually. It said requests under the support account should be justified not only on the workload basis, but also in the context of the total resources available to a particular unit or programme to which such resources belonged.

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The Secretary-General has appointed Livio Muzi Falconi as the new United Nations Chief of Protocol, effective 15 June. Mr. Falconi, an Italian national, has served as Italy's Deputy Director of Diplomatic Protocol since 1992. In that capacity, he supervised the organization of the Group of Seven Summit and the World Conference on Transnational Organized Crime, both of which were held in Naples. Mr. Falconi entered his country's Diplomatic Service in 1960.

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The United Nations International Drug Control Programm (UNDCP) has announced that it will establish the Drug Preventive Network of the Americas on 26 June. The Network will be an alliance of non-governmental organizations based in North and South America and the Caribbean.

The creation of the Network will fulfil one of the central goals of the 18-point "Bangkok Declaration" adopted by the 1994 NGO World Forum on Drug Demand reduction. The Declaration stressed the importance of regional and international linkages among non-governmental organizations working to reduce drug and substance abuse.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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14 June 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General writes to Group of Seven leaders calling attention to United Nations financial crisis; suggests Member States issue bonds for settlement of $1.4 billion in arrears to Organization.

* Secretary-General condemns attack on international convoy in Burundi; calls on all parties to refrain from violence and to cooperate with efforts to bring peace and stability to country.

* United Nations peace-keepers released yesterday by Bosnian Serbs arrive in Zagreb; 26 personnel remain in detention.

* Humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina deteriorates steadily as Bosnian Serbs continue to block aid convoys.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNOMIL mandate for three months; urges Liberian parties to install Council of State and observe comprehensive cease-fire.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has written to the leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized States calling attention to the financial crisis confronting the United Nations. He welcomed the intention of the Seven to consider the role of the Bretton Woods Institutions in conjunction with the United Nations system as a whole, at their upcoming Summit in Halifax, Canada.

The United Nations could not continue to accept new missions, nor even to discharge its current responsibilities, without being able to rely on a dependable capital base or upon commercial borrowing, the Secretary-General said. A structure was needed for predictable and adequate financing of United Nations operations, and for streamlining the Organization and its funds and programmes.

To deal with the immediate situation, he asked the Group of Seven to consider a plan for the settlement of Member States' arrears, which now totaled $1.4 billion. He suggested an exchange agreement of mutual support by each Member State for the United Nations. States in arrears would issue bonds to the Organization. Those bonds would be exchanged and accepted by other

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(more)

totaled $1.4 billion. He suggested an exchange agreement of mutual support by each Member State for the United Nations. States in arrears would issue bonds to the Organization. Those bonds would be exchanged and accepted by other Members in settlement of amounts owed to them for contributions of troops and equipment, which now totaled $800 million. The bonds would have an appropriate maturity and would set forth an irrevocable pledge of settlement by States in arrears.

The Secretary-General stressed that the United Nations had the capability to handle the new global challenges. However, to do so the Organization needed reliable financial resources and the understanding and support of its leading Member States.

* * *

The Secretary-General has condemned today's ambush against an international convoy in Burundi's Cibitoke Province. Among those travelling in the convoy were the Foreign Minister of Burundi, the United States Ambassador to the country, Organization of African Unity (OAU) observers, and members of the Burundese military. One OAU observer from Burkina Faso was killed in the ambush, while another observer and six Burundese military personnel were wounded.

The Secretary-General called on all parties to refrain from further acts of violence and to cooperate fully with the efforts of the Government and the international community to bring durable peace and stability to Burundi. He conveyed his condolences to the members of the family of the deceased, to the Government of Burkina Faso and to the Secretary-General of the OAU.

* * *

The 26 United Nations personnel released yesterday by the Bosnian Serbs have arrived in Zagreb, a United Nations spokesman announced today. The group consisted of 14 French soldiers, six British, two Polish, one Russian, one Norwegian, one Swede and one Czech. The Bosnian Serbs continued to detain 26 personnel, including 15 military observers. However, there were unconfirmed reports that 11 Canadians being held at Ilijas would be released today.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs "de-blocked" another 92 peace-keepers in weapons collection points and observation posts, but continued to surround some of them. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was attempting to clarify the situation with a view to resupplying and rotating the soldiers, the spokesman said.

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The humanitarian situation in Sarajevo is deteriorating steadily after three weeks without international relief convoys, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said today. Gas, electricity and water supplies to the city have also been cut off by the Bosnian Serbs.

The UNHCR received no clearance for convoys to the Bosnian enclaves today, and cancelled one bound for Srebrenica. The Bosnian Serbs have been demanding 50 per cent of the aid intended for the enclaves. UNPROFOR resupply convoys have also been blocked.

* * *

The Secretary-General has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for three months to 30 September. In a report dated 10 June, he noted that the recent Summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had not yielded a final agreement on the composition of the Liberian Council of State. However, a substantial measure of agreement had emerged among the parties on almost all unresolved issues concerning its installation.

The Secretary-General expressed hope that the Liberian parties would soon reach agreement on the outstanding issues, and take concrete steps to end the crisis. He underlined the importance of the installation of the Council of State; a comprehensive cease-fire; the disengagement of forces; and a timetable for the implementation of agreements reached.

If the necessary steps were not taken within the next three months, UNOMIL should be terminated and converted into a mission of good offices, he said. In the absence of a cease-fire and the resumption of disarmament, UNOMIL military observers would be withdrawn. If there were significant progress over the next three months, the Security Council should consider restoring the Mission to its full strength. However, UNOMIL's role in Liberia and its relationship with the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) should then be adjusted to enable the two operations to function more effectively.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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15 June 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General and President of France meet at Headquarters; discuss situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Rapid Reaction Force, and African development.

* United Nations personnel come under attack in various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian Serbs continue to hold 15 military observers and 11 peace-keepers hostage.

* Special Representative for former Yugoslavia and UNHCR demand Bosnian Serbs honour existing agreements and remove all obstructions to humanitarian deliveries.

* Foreign Minister of Burundi and United States Ambassador evacuated to Bujumbura after ambush in Cibitoke Province; Special Representative to report to Secretary-General on incident.

* UNHCR and Angola sign memorandum of understanding to promote voluntary repatriation of 300,000 Angolan refugees.

* WHO reports slight increase in number of Ebola cases in Zaire; puts total at 280 confirmed or suspected cases, including 220 deaths.

* World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to be observed for first time on Saturday, one year after signing of Desertification Convention.

* Secretary-General to participate in video conference with United States astronauts and Russian cosmonauts in outer space as part of United Nations fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

* Committee on NGOs recommends eight organizations for consultative status with Economic and Social Council.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and French President Jacques Chirac met today, along with their aides, at Headquarters. They discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for France's major role in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). They also reviewed the integration of the Rapid Reaction Force within the command structure of UNPROFOR as a peace-keeping operation, not an enforcement one.

The Secretary-General and the President also dealt with Africa, including the situations in Angola, Burundi, Rwanda and Western Sahara. They focused on African development, and agreed that it was imperative not to reduce, but to increase, development aid in order to avoid a destabilization of the continent in the future. The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the Organization's finances were also discussed at the meeting.

The Secretary-General later hosted a working lunch for the President, during which they discussed several topics. Mr. Chirac also had meetings with Security Council President Detlev Graf zu Rantzau (Germany) and General Assembly President Amara Essy (Cote d'Ivoire).

In remarks to correspondents, President Chirac voiced concern at the "disengagement" of some major countries from the issue of development aid. Regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina, he expressed hope that the Bosnian Serbs would release the remaining United Nations hostages within 48 hours. French peace-keepers could then free the four Bosnian Serb soldiers held by them in Sarajevo. He warned that any new offensive by the Bosnian Government would be a serious mistake and could lead to a very dangerous situation.

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The Bosnian Serbs today continued to hold 15 United Nations military observers and 11 Canadian peace-keepers hostage, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile, UNPROFOR personnel came under attack in various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A Bosnian UNPROFOR employee driving a clearly-marked United Nations vehicle was shot and wounded by a sniper in Sarajevo yesterday, while a Russian observation post came under fire from Bosnian Government soldiers, the spokesman continued. Bosnian Serb soldiers fired on Nordic Battalion vehicles in Sector North-East, and the peace-keepers returned more than five-hundred rounds in self-defence. In Sector South-West, a British helicopter was forced to land after being hit by small-arms fire.

Meanwhile, there was intense fighting around Sarajevo, involving the use

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of mortars and heavy machine-guns. There was continuing speculation regarding the Bosnian Government build-up north of the city, although UNPROFOR was not in a position to confirm or deny any reports on developments there.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata have demanded that the Bosnian Serbs immediately remove all obstructions to humanitarian deliveries in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a letter to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, they said international humanitarian law and human decency entitled civilians to unhindered access to humanitarian supplies. They called on Dr. Karadzic to honour the commitments made in that regard over the past three years, and as recently as last week.

The letter warned of developing disasters in Sarajevo, Bihac, Gorazde, Srebrenica and Zepa. Due to obstructive actions by Bosnian Serb forces, humanitarian supplies and relief personnel could not reach those areas. "We can no longer tolerate the violation of exhaustively negotiated arrangements or the denial of well-developed procedures," the letter said. "We refuse to accept lame excuses, false allegations and suspicions or reference to uncontrolled elements to justify interference with free movement of humanitarian goods and staff."

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The Foreign Minister of Burundi, the United States Ambassador to the country, and the Special Representative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) have been evacuated to Bujumbura, following yesterday's attack on their convoy in Cibitoke Province. One OAU observer was killed in the incident, while a Burundese soldier later died of his wounds.

A United Nations spokesman said there was still no indication as to who responsible for the attack on the convoy. Special Representative Ahmedou Ould Abdallah is preparing a report to the Secretary-General on the incident.

* * *

The UNHCR and Angola have signed a memorandum of understanding to promote the voluntary repatriation of some 300,000 Angolan refugees. It calls for the formation of a repatriation committee to promote and implement the orderly return and reintegration of Angolan refugees in conditions of safety and dignity.

The memorandum was signed in Luanda by Kamel Morjane, Director of

UNHCR's Regional Bureau of Africa, and the Angolan Minister of Social Affairs and Reinsertion, Albino Malungo. Mr. Morjane said repatriation in Angola would greatly enhance peace and stability in the whole southern African region.

Since the signing in November of a peace agreement ending nearly two decades of civil war in Angola, some 5,500 refugees have returned spontaneously. Zaire currently hosts about 200,000 Angolan refugees, Zambia 96,000, Congo 12,000 and Namibia 1,000. In addition, there are about 15,000 Angolan refugees in another 32 countries.

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The International Scientific and Technical Committee, supported by a World Health Organization (WHO) team in Zaire, has reported a slight increase in the number of cases of Ebola haemorrhagic fever. The total now stands at 280 confirmed or suspected cases, including 220 deaths, since the start of the epidemic.

Thirteen new cases -- 10 of them now in hospital in Kikwit -- have been reported since 9 June. These are people who, having been in contact with patients, have reached the end of the incubation period of the disease. None are health workers, the group which suffered most at the start of the epidemic.

WHO specialists expect that there will be more new cases, although they maintain that the acute phase of the epidemic has passed. However, they stress that the latest figures show that vigilance, as well as epidemiological surveillance, must be maintained.

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As part of its campaign to combat desertification, the General Assembly has designated 17 June 1995 as the first "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought". This Day marks the first anniversary of the signing of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification.

The world is literally losing ground in its struggle against desertification. The problem is caused by a combination of climate variations, over-grazing and over-cropping, bad irrigation and deforestation, that could threaten more than a billion people -- nearly a fifth of the world's population.

According to the definition agreed by world leaders at the 1992 Earth

Summit and adopted by the Convention, desertification is "land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climate variations and human activities". In recognition of the seriousness of the problem of desertification, the Interim Secretariat for the Convention has commissioned "Down to Earth: A simple guide to the Convention to Combat Desertification, why it is necessary and what is important and different about it".

* * *

A video conference between the Secretary-General at Headquarters and United States astronauts and Russian Federation cosmonauts in outer space will be among the events held to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, made that announcement to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as it began its two-week session in Vienna.

Mr. Jasentuliyana said that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space shuttle and the Mir space station would undertake a cooperative docking mission between 27 October and 2 November. They would carry the United Nations flag and special commemorative issues of the space treaties in honour of the fiftieth anniversary.

* * *

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations yesterday recommended that eight organizations be granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Committee recommended Global 2000 and Franciscans International for Category I status. Recommended for Category II status were: the Simon Wiesenthal Center; the Federal Union of European Nationalities; the International Hotel Association; the Latin American Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights; the African Society of International and Comparative Law; and Temple of Understanding.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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16 June 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council authorizes increase of up to 12,500 troops in strength of UNPROFOR; says rapid reaction capacity will enable Force to carry out its mandate; financial modalities to be determined at later time.

* Special Representative Akashi appeals to Bosnian parties for immediate cease-fire amid intense fighting in and around Sarajevo; demands lifting of restrictions on humanitarian deliveries; five French peace-keepers wounded in incident at weapons collection point.

* Security Council extends UNMOT mandate until 15 December, subject to Tajik parties' continuation of cease-fire agreement and commitment to national reconciliation.

* Security Council condemns offensive actions in Croatia and intimidation of UNCRO personnel; says it will not countenance moves to establish union between Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Secretary-General meets with Co-Chairmen of International Conference to discuss deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Bosnian Government says its Army has taken defensive measures to prevent further strangulation of Sarajevo; alleges international community has not acted to prevent catastrophe.

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The Security Council this morning authorized an increase of up to 12,500 troops for the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF)/United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), in order to establish a rapid reaction capacity to enable UNPF/UNPROFOR to carry out its mandate. The modalities for the financing of the Force will be determined at a later time. The Council took that action,

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under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by adopting resolution 998 (1995). There were 13 votes in favour to none against, with two abstentions (China and the Russian Federation).

The Council requested that the Secretary-General, in taking decisions on the deployment of UNPROFOR personnel, take full account of the need to enhance their security. It demanded that the Bosnian Serbs immediately and unconditionally release all detained UNPROFOR personnel. All parties must fully respect the safety of UNPROFOR personnel and others engaged in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and ensure their complete freedom of movement.

The Council demanded that the parties allow unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance to all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly the safe areas. It demanded that they respect fully the status of the safe areas and ensure the safety of their civilian populations. The Council also called on the parties to agree without delay to a cease-fire and a complete cessation of hostilities.

Explaining its abstention, the Russian Federation said the resolution gave the impression that it was addressed against one party. The United Nations should focus on ensuring the cooperation of both parties and promoting agreements on a cease-fire and a cessation of hostilities. China, which also abstained, said a rapid reaction force would change UNPROFOR's peace-keeping status. The United States said it could not agree to funding the rapid deployment force through the normal peace-keeping assessment process. It had supported the resolution on the understanding that it was not incurring any direct financial obligation.

The Secretary-General has estimated that increasing UNPROFOR's strength by 12,500 will cost $414 million for a six-month period. That figure provides for some 35 international civilian staff, 363 local staff and 406 United Nations Volunteers.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today urgently appealed to the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs for an immediate cease-fire in and around Sarajevo, and for a complete cessation of hostilities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also demanded that restrictions on humanitarian aid deliveries and utility supplies be removed immediately.

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Mr. Akashi said both Bosnian parties had violated the heavy weapons and anti-sniping agreements, interfered with utilities, and engaged in increasingly fierce combat for tactical advantages on the ground. Attacks launched today by the Bosnian Government had led to an intensification of the fighting. He called attention to the plight of civilians on both sides, and said he was at the complete disposal of the parties in order to facilitate the de-escalation of the situation.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman reported intense fighting in and around the Bosnian capital throughout the day. Clashes were taking place on the northern and southern confrontation lines and to the east and south-west of the airport. Overnight, the Bosnian Serbs removed nearly all their heavy weapons from the Tito Barracks collection point. They fired weapons from another collection point, wounding five French peace-keepers. Government forces also removed weapons from United Nations custody.

The spokesman noted that the Bosnian Serbs had also seized a United Nations tank and had fired several rounds from it. He strongly condemned that action, saying such misuse of United Nations equipment violated the Geneva Conventions. He went on to say that the Bosnian Serbs continued to hold 26 United Nations personnel hostage, and had denied another 91 freedom of movement. Bosnian Government forces had surrounded 15 Russian peace-keepers at an observation post in northern Sarajevo, and were still blockading 86 Ukrainian peace-keepers in Gorazde.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) until 15 December, subject to the proviso that the 1994 cease-fire agreement remained in force. It said the parties must continue to be committed to an effective cease-fire, to national reconciliation and to the promotion of democracy. The Council decided that UNMOT's mandate would remain in effect unless the Secretary-General reported that those conditions had not been met. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 999 (1995).

The Council stressed that the parties must achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict through the inter-Tajik dialogue, and cooperate fully with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy. It called on them to agree to the early convening of a further round of inter-Tajik talks and to implement all confidence-building measures agreed to at the fourth round. It cited measures on the exchange of detainees and prisoners of war, and on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons in dignity and safety. The

Council asked the Secretary-General to continue efforts to speed up progress towards national reconciliation, and to report to it on that progress and on UNMOT operations.

The Council emphasized that the parties must comply fully with all obligations they had assumed, and strictly observe and substantially extend the current cease-fire agreement. It stressed the urgency of the cessation of all hostile acts on the Tajik-Afghan border, and called on all States to discourage any activities that could complicate or hinder the peace process in Tajikistan.

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In a third meeting today, the Council condemned the intimidation of personnel of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) and the continuation of offensive actions in that country. In a statement by its President, Detlev Graf zu Rantzau (Germany), the Council said it looked to the Croatian parties to cooperate fully and unconditionally with UNCRO in the performance of its mandate. It also looked to them to ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of UNCRO personnel.

The statement demanded that the parties fulfil their commitments under the March 1994 cease-fire agreement, particularly in respect of withdrawal of all forces from the zones of separation, and fully implement the December 1994 economic agreement. It called on them to respect the international border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to stop any action which extended the conflict across that border. The Council again warned that if the parties did not refrain from military actions that could escalate the situation, it would consider further steps to ensure compliance with its resolution 994 (1995).

The Council noted the Secretary-General's judgement that the redeployment of United Nations peace-keepers in Croatia could not be completed by 30 June. It requested him to proceed expeditiously with the redeployment. The Council went on to say that it could not countenance moves by the local Serb authorities in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish a union between them, as that would be inconsistent with the Council's commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries.

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The Secretary-General met today with the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt. They discussed developments in the area, focusing on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Mr. Bildt later told correspondents that the escalation of fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina brought very great dangers. He urged the Bosnian Serbs to end their strangulation of Sarajevo. "I can understand the concerns of the Bosnian Government in this respect, although one must be very much aware of the risks of further escalation of the violence and suffering that any sort of major operation brings," he said.

* * *

The Bosnian Republic today said that its military operation in the Sarajevo area was intended to prevent the further strangulation of the city. A statement by the President of the Bosnian Presidency accused the "Pale Serbs" of seeking a solution to the conflict based on force, genocide and ethnic cleansing. They had killed civilians while violating the exclusion zone around Sarajevo, cut off humanitarian access and utility supplies to the city, and continued to deploy troops and weapons around it. Meanwhile, the statement asserted, the international community had not taken any measures to prevent the catastrophe.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey told correspondents at Headquarters that the Bosnian Serbs had increased their manpower and heavy weapons concentrations around Sarajevo, creating an urgent situation which had to be dealt with immediately. It was hypocritical of the international community to call for a halt to military activity while allowing the Serbs to continue the siege and to further entrench their heavy weapons, he said.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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19 June 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Bosnian Serbs release all remaining United Nations hostages; UNPROFOR withdraws peace-keepers from weapons collection points after intense fighting in and around Sarajevo.

* Secretary-General welcomes communique issued following Group of Seven Summit in Halifax; notes support for United Nations role as unique forum for building consensus on global priorities.

* UNFICYP plays indispensable role in preventing recurrence of fighting in Cyprus, Secretary-General tells Security Council; mandate should be extended to 31 December.

* Secretary-General expresses concern at recent escalation of hostilities along Israel-Lebanon border; urges all parties to exercise restraint.

* Utility supplies should be restored in Sarajevo this week following agreement between Bosnian parties, Special Coordinator announces.

* Security Council welcomes recent positive developments in Angola, but notes some delays in peace process; stresses need for progress in mine clearance.

* Secretary-General pledges to make problems of African children a priority for United Nations action; calls on international community to redouble support for UNICEF.

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The Bosnian Serbs have freed the last 26 of the United Nations personnel held hostage by them for three weeks, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The 11 Canadian peace-keepers and 15 military observers arrived

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today at Zagreb airport, where they were greeted by United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) Commander General Bernard Janvier and Special Representative Yasushi Akashi.

There was intense fighting in and around Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the weekend, the spokesman said. However, only moderate levels of activity were reported today. United Nations troops were withdrawn from the heavy weapons collection points around the capital city yesterday. Half of the collection points had already been overrun by the Bosnian Serbs. The remaining peace-keepers had been unable to function properly and had become vulnerable to hostage-taking. The decision to withdraw was fully supported by troop-contributing countries.

The spokesman noted that United Nations peace-keepers remained deployed at certain key observation posts. They could still play a useful role, primarily by being inter-positioned between the opposing forces around Sarajevo and the eastern enclaves.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the communique issued by the Heads of State and Government of the "Group of Seven" industrialized countries and the President of the European Commission following their Summit in Halifax, Canada. He said he greatly appreciated the support expressed for the role of the United Nations as a "unique forum for consensus building on global priorities", as an "advocate for core values" and as an agent to respond to development and humanitarian needs.

The Secretary-General welcomed the suggestions made in the communique for further enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of the United Nations system in the economic, social and environmental fields and in the humanitarian area. He said he would examine them carefully with all concerned. He also appreciated the call on Member States to meet their financial obligations to the Organization and for early agreement on reform of the system of assessment.

Finally, he welcomed the commitment to help the United Nations system face the challenges of the next century. The Summit participants said they would seek a consensus on that issue in October, when Heads of States and Government gathered in New York for the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization.

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The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until 31 December, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 15 June, he said UNFICYP's presence on the island remained indispensable to achieving the objectives set out by the Council. The Force was established to prevent a recurrence of fighting in Cyprus and to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions. In the past six months, he continued, the Force had carried out its functions effectively, with a reasonable degree of cooperation from both Cypriot parties, and the situation had remained generally calm.

However, the report pointed out that there was merely a cease-fire in Cyprus, not peace. The status quo held dangers that did not diminish with the passage of time. In the absence of progress towards an agreed overall settlement, the situation remained subject to sudden tensions, generated by events outside the island as well as within. Furthermore, the excessive levels of armaments and forces in Cyprus, and the rate at which they were being strengthened, were a cause for serious concern. There had been no progress even on modest measures aimed at reducing confrontation between the parties along the cease-fire lines.

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The Secretary-General has expressed deep concern at the recent escalation of hostilities along the border between Israel and Lebanon, and the resulting civilian casualties. In a statement issued on Friday, he urged all parties to exercise restraint and, in particular, to refrain from attacking civilians.

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The Special Coordinator for Sarajevo, William Eagleton, today announced that utilities would probably be restored to the city later this week. He told correspondents at Headquarters that the Bosnian parties had reached an agreement on gas, electricity and water supplies, and that the modalities for restoration were now being discussed. The Bosnian Serbs cut off the city's utilities almost a month ago.

Mr. Eagleton expressed optimism regarding international efforts on behalf of Sarajevo, despite recent events there. At a conference in Vienna on 14 June, donors had not only pledged to continue to support the Action Plan

for the city, but had indicated that they would make additional contributions to it. To date, 28 countries had pledged a total of $95 million, while $11 million had been paid into the Trust Fund for Sarajevo.

Some 300 projects were currently being planned for the Bosnian capital, and funding had been received for half of them, he continued. As soon as conditions permitted, efforts would be made to improve the utility situation. He stressed the need for secure access to the city, noting that economic activity there had flourished when roads were open earlier this year.

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The Security Council has welcomed recent positive developments in Angola, including the maintenance of the cease-fire. However, in a letter to the Secretary-General dated 15 June, it noted that despite the considerable progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, there had been delays in the peace process. The Council made those comments in response to the fourth progress report on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III).

The Council expressed particular concern at the lack of progress in mine clearance, which affected the deployment of UNAVEM III and the Angolan people's ability to return to their homes. It endorsed the Secretary-General's call to the parties to reinforce recent actions in the fields of mine clearance and road and bridge repair. The Council expressed its distress at the recent killing of a United Nations police observer in Angola, and the wounding of a military observer. It recalled the responsibility of the parties for the safety and security of all United Nations personnel there.

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The Secretary-General has pledged to make African problems, and particularly the problems of African children, his priority for United Nations action. He made that pledge on Friday, in an address to the gala event at Headquarters marking the Day of the African Child. He called on the international community to redouble its support for the United Nations and for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The challenge was complex and required a comprehensive response, including carefully targeted measures to assist children, he continued. Cooperation for development must be designed with children in mind, and children harmed by conflict must benefit the most from United Nations work for peace. "Our message to the world today is: Africa is not alone. The children of Africa are not alone," he concluded.

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UNITED NATIONS

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations is leading way towards new international era of democratization, Secretary-General tells Foreign Policy Association.

* Secretary-General discusses situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Rapid Reaction Force, with United Kingdom Defence Secretary.

* Bosnian Government turns three UNHCR convoys back from Sarajevo for security reasons; food stocks dwindle in eastern enclaves.

* Special Commission Chairman says Iraq has no significant capability in areas of chemical weapons and long-range missiles; expresses concern regarding biological area.

* International health bodies warn diphtheria epidemic in former Soviet Union could become global health emergency.

* UNAMIR cost estimate reduced by $21 million for period 10 June to 31 December following Security Council decision to scale Mission down.

* Economic and Social Council to hold 1995 substantive session in Geneva from 26 June to 28 July.

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The United Nations is leading the way towards a new international era -- the age of democratization -- according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a statement to the Foreign Policy Association last night, he stressed that the Organization needed the support of its Member States and their peoples in that effort. Public, political, moral, material, military and financial support were crucial in times of great change and great suffering.

Supporting the United Nations did not mean subsidizing a separate, independent entity, the Secretary-General went on to say. It meant participating

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in the only world Organization composed of all humanity, and in the service of all humanity. Never before had the world had such a chance to establish a universal civil society which administered law, he concluded.

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The Secretary-General met today at Headquarters with the Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom, Malcom Rifkind, according to a United Nations spokesman. He expressed his appreciation for the United Kingdom's support for peace-keeping operations, and they discussed the country's work on conflict resolution, particularly in Africa.

The Secretary-General and the Defence Secretary discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina at length, including the role of the Rapid Reaction Force. Mr. Rifkind described that Force as a useful enhancement of the United Nations Force Commander's assets in the field. Mr. Boutros-Ghali stressed the importance of retaining the option of using air power, as authorized by the Security Council. They also discussed cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union, including the roles of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

The situation in Angola was also discussed, particularly the demining operation there. The Secretary-General asked Mr. Rifkind for British assistance in that regard, and called his attention to the conference on demining activities to be held in Geneva on 7 July.

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Three United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoys were today turned back from Sarajevo by the Bosnian Government, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The three convoys -- totaling 37 vehicles carrying 450 metric tons of humanitarian supplies -- were stopped before Mount Igman for security reasons. They were expected to try to enter the city tomorrow from the north. However, there has been substantial military activity in that area recently, and the UNHCR was not optimistic about the prospects for success tomorrow.

The spokesman noted that the UNHCR, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the Bosnian Government had teamed up to carry an average of 30 tons of flour into Sarajevo each day. Those deliveries kept the city's bakery operating at less than 50 per cent of capacity. Meanwhile, the eastern enclaves had an average of three to four days worth of food in stock, leaving the most vulnerable sections of the population "very close to the edge."

One convoy had been prevented by the Bosnian Serbs from entering Gorazde since Saturday, the spokesman continued. Another convoy had been unable to reach

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Bihac pending clearance from rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic. However, a nine-vehicle convoy reached Srebrenica today after Bosnian Serb soldiers extorted fuel as the price of entry. UNPROFOR was also experiencing difficulties in attempting to resupply peace-keepers.

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The United Nations Special Commission is confident that Iraq does not have any significant prohibited capability in the areas of chemical weapons and long-range missiles, according to its Executive Chairman, Rolf Ekeus. He told correspondents at Headquarters today that the Commission's monitoring and verification system would detect any Iraqi attempt to acquire such a capability. He made those comments after reporting to the Security Council on Iraqi compliance with resolution 687 (1991).

However, Mr. Ekeus expressed concern regarding Iraq's capability in the biological area. The Special Commission had discovered that the country had imported the necessary components for a biological weapons programme before the Gulf War, but did not know if such a programme existed. Information received from a variety of sources since April had only added to its concern. If Iraq were to openly declare what it had done with the imported components, that information could easily be verified using the Commission's database. The biological issue could be quickly resolved, he said, "but it is completely, obviously in the hands of the Iraqis."

Mr. Ekeus described his report to the Security Council as "very positive" overall, citing Iraq's cooperation with ongoing monitoring activities. Several Council members had expressed great satisfaction at the progress achieved, he noted, although all had been critical of Iraq's compliance in the biological area.

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An epidemic of diphtheria in the newly-independent States of the former Soviet Union is spinning out of control and could become a global public health emergency. That warning came yesterday from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as they launched a joint appeal for $33 million for diphtheria control.

For decades, diphtheria was considered a controlled disease in Europe. However, the situation changed rapidly in the early 1990s with outbreaks in all of the newly-independent States. Almost 48,000 cases and 1,700 deaths were reported in the region in 1994. WHO predicts 150,000 to 200,000 new cases there this year.

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The estimated cost of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for the period 10 June to 31 December has been reduced by $21 million to $110 million, the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has heard. The reduction followed the Security Council's decision on 9 June to scale down the Mission. Resolution 997 (1995) authorized a reduction from 5,500 to 2,300 troops within three months, and to 1,800 troops within four months.

United Nations Controller Yukio Takasu told the Fifth Committee that the cost estimate had been based on several factors, such as the reduction in strength, a 10 per cent cut in civilian personnel and operating costs, and an increase in the transport requirements to withdraw troops and equipment.

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The Economic and Social Council will hold its 1995 substantive session in Geneva from 26 June to 28 July. Discussions will focus on the coordinated implementation of international agreements on population and development matters and social and other economic issues adopted at recent world conferences. The Council will tackle the challenge of implementing those agreements as it strives to bring greater coherence to the development work of the United Nations.

The 54-member Council will also consider such issues as conservation of forests for sustainable development, United Nations electoral assistance, and prevention of terrorism and organized crime. In addition, it will deal with the human rights situations in various countries, including Iraq and Haiti.

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